

## Old Standard Hearing Draws Overflow Crowd

A standing room only crowd was on hand to present comments during a public hearing hosted by the Jefferson County Planning Commission on Tuesday evening. The subject of the hearing was a rezoning request by Old Standard LC for a quarry site near Millville.

The request was proposed by developers who own the property and wish to have it rezoned from rural to commercial/industrial. According to Jim Campbell, attorney for the landowners, the development of the property would consist only of office space for businesses dealing with research and development, technology and other related uses as well as a hotel and conference center. The proposed development would, he stated, bring up to 6,000 jobs to Jefferson County as well as increased revenue through taxes and impact fees.

Opponents to the rezoning request included Don Campbell, Superintendent of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park who told commissioners that because the land is adjacent to the park and was potentially battlefield land, developing it would not be compatible with the county's Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Campbell and Development Authority Executive Director Jane Peters countered that the rezoning would very much be in line with the Comprehensive Plan. Peters said it is not only compatible with the plan, but an integral part of the plan. Peters said that the plan included instructions to "diversify the economy" and "provide quality employment." She told commissioners that she, along with the Board of Directors of the Development Authority, supported this proposal which would help generate jobs here in the county.

Numerous citizens voiced their opinions both for and against the proposed rezoning. While some opposing the rezoning gave such reasons as traffic and noise, the majority of those opposed cited issues relating to preserving the park land and preserving the "viewshed."

The Planning Commission began the evening by saying that they would not make a decision on the issue until their June 12 meeting. At that time, they will deliver a decision whether they believe the rezoning proposal is compatible with the county's Comprehensive Plan. Their opinion will be given to the County Commission who will have the ultimate decision in whether to rezone the property or not.

Currently 80 acres of the property in question is zoned high density residential and could result in the construction of 1,600 homes if the rezoning to commercial/industrial is denied. The remaining acreage is currently zoned rural.